Six lanning of highways

1783. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI intends to make some four-lane highways into six-lane highways in the country;

(b) what is the criteria being used to determine the four-lane highways that would be selected for six-lane conversion;

(c) whether it is a fact that density of traffic is not a prime criteria for NHAI to select such works;

(d) the steps proposed to carefully assess the need for making six-lane highways without the accompanying traffic; and

(e) the steps proposed to avoid unnecessary investments by NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H.MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Committee on Infrastructure headed by Prime Minister has approved 6-laning of 6,500 km of existing 4-lane National Highways which will include the entire length of 5846 km of Golden Quadrilateral.

(c) Yes, Sir. It would be implemented on the Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) basis through Public Private Partnership. DBFO is also one form of Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) model.

(d) and (e) The details are under discussion with the Planning Commission.

Four laning of NH-52

1784. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project/scheme to construct double/four lane road on the existing NH-52 connecting with China Border in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) by when the West-East four-lane corridor road construction work in North East area is likely to begin; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to utilize rivers Brahmaputra/Barak as national/international waterways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Double laning of National Highway (NH) No. 52 in Arunachal Pradesh has been included under Phase 'B' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North-Eastern Region (SARDP-NE) for which the Government has given approval for preparation of Detailed Project Report. NH-52 does not traverse to China border. However, improvement of State road in a total length of 289 km from Pasighat to Bishing (China Border) has been included under Phase 'B' & 'C' of SARDP-NE. Whereas the Government has given approval for preparation of DPR for road section from Pasighat to Yingkiong (129 Km) under Phase 'B', the remaining length under Phase 'C' has not been approved.

(b) Four laning of National Highways in the North-Eastern Region under East-West Corridor is being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the construction work has already begun. Four laning of 18 km long Guwahati Bypass on NH-37 has already been completed. The remaining stretches of East-West Corridor have already been awarded by the NHAI for implementation, excluding a stretch of NH-54 from Km 40 to km 275 and Brahmaputra Bridge.

(c) River Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km.) has been declared as National Waterway and basic inland water transport infrastructure namely navigational channel, terminals and navigational aids are being provided on this waterway by the Inland Waterways Authority of India in a phased manner. The waterway is already being utilized for transportation of goods and passengers. Karimganj and Lakhipur stretch of river Barak is also under consideration of the Government of India for declaration as a National Waterway. However, this waterway is already connected with Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes and Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) and private operators operate cargo transportation between Kolkata/Haldia and Karimganj/Badarpur on Barak river from time to time.

National Highways damaged due to rains

1785. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of a number of National Highways has worsened following incessant rains in a number of States, particularly in the Southern States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and